

The Gardener's Monthly, November.—Two handsome California plants are described, *Triteleia laxa* and *Brodiaea coccinea*. Accompanying the description of the latter species is an excellent figure of the flower cluster and it promises to become one of our handsomest cultivated plants. The articles of this Magazine are so numerous and varied that we can not even name them, nor select the most prominent, for all are interesting.

Field and Forest, November.—The Flora Columbiana has been brought down among the *Gramineae*, having stopped in this number with the genus *Eatonia*.

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, October.—Geo. E. Davenport mentions some peculiar variations of *Aspidium Thelypteris*, Swz. W. R. Gerard states that the fungi *Rhytisma Solidaginis*, and *R. Asteris*, which occur on the leaves of *Solidago* and *Aster*, have turned out to be insect galls.

Home and School, October.—John Williamson describes and figures *Trichomanes radicans*, found at Rock-castle Springs, Ky., by Mrs. Yandell. There are five figures, giving a general view of the plant, and magnified views of the fruit receptacle and sporangia.

A Catalogue of the Forest trees of the United States, by Geo. Vasey, M. D.—This pamphlet is meant to illustrate the "collection of forest-tree sections on exhibition by the Department of Agriculture at the Centennial Exhibition." Sixteen feet is used as the point where a shrub becomes a tree. The pamphlet contains 38 pages giving the range and a few of the prominent characteristics of 419 trees. The two largest genera are the oaks and pines, each of which embrace about 30 species. In getting together the material for this exhibition, which was an immense labor, requiring great skill and patience, and which reflects so much credit upon the Department and its Botanist, four or five species unknown to our flora were obtained. "These are mainly in South Florida, and include two exogens, viz., an *Asimina*, or Custard Apple, and a *Chrysophyllum*, or Star Apple; and one endogen, a Palm of the genus *Thrinax*."

Cereus grandiflorus and *Cereus Bonplandii*, by Richard E. Kunze, M. D.—This paper was read by Dr. Kunze before the Eclectic Medical Society of New York State. It contains a fine colored plate of each species and gives their history, description and therapeutical application.

VARIATIONS IN THE SIZE OF ASTERS. Although prevented by the nature of my work from a full study of the flora of Northern Indiana, yet in my walks along the Wabash and Eel or along one of our railways I can not help being struck with the rich reward a careful study of our fall Composite would yield to the zealous student. On every side we see the golden *Solidago*, bending its graceful head in conscious knowledge of its beauty, or the *Helianthus*, standing boldly erect, as if it held the soil by right. Scattered in their midst gleams the bright purple and blue *Asters*, while in almost every sodded nook and corner the bright *Taraxacum* turns toward you its cheerful face. In walks merely for pleasure at the close of a day's labor, many minor points escaped attention, yet one fact struck me particularly in regard to the *Asters*, and that was the little attention they paid to the manual as regards their size. For example *Aster dumosus*, L., said to be from 1°—3° high, very rarely falls below 4° and I have seen it six. Again *Aster eriooides*, L., instead of being from 1°—1½° high, ranges from 2°—4°. On the other hand an *Aster* which I judge to be *A. tenuifolius*, L., is very rarely found 2° high, and yet that is the minimum given in Gray's manual. M. S. C.

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